

#1 The Prophet’s Disappointment With God (1:1-4)

a. God, why don’t you listen when I pray? (1-2)

Habakkuk 1:1-2

¹ The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received. ² How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save?

b. God, why don’t you care about injustice? (3-4)

Habakkuk 1:3-4

³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. ⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted

#2 God’s Declaration of His Intentions

(1:5-11)

a. God will do something utterly amazing. (5)

Habakkuk 1:5

⁵ “Look at the nations and watch — and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.”

b. God will discipline His own people. (6-11)

Habakkuk 1:6

⁶ “I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own.

Habakkuk 1:7-11

⁷ “They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor. ⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like an eagle swooping to devour;” ⁹ “they all come intent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand. ¹⁰ They mock kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; by building earthen ramps they capture them. ¹¹ Then they sweep past like the wind and go on — guilty people, whose own strength is their god.”

Question:

Why would God discipline His own people?

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

¹ If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord our God will set you high above all the nations on earth. ² All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

Deuteronomy 28:15

¹⁵ However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:

Deuteronomy 28:25

²⁵ The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven, and you will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms on earth.

#3 The Prophet's Dilemma With God. (1:12-17)

a. God, why do you use evil people? (12-13)

Habakkuk 1:12-13

¹² Lord, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, Lord, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish. ¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

b. God, why do you endorse injustice? (14-15)

Habakkuk 1:14-15

¹⁴ You have made people like the fish in the sea, like the sea creatures that have no ruler. ¹⁵ The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks, he catches them in his net, he gathers them up in his dragnet; and so he rejoices and is glad.

c. God, why do you put up with idolators? (16-17)

Habakkuk 1:16-17

¹⁶ Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet, for by his net he lives in luxury and enjoys the choicest food. ¹⁷ Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy?

Question: So, why does God put up with evil today?

#1 He has already done something about evil.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us

#2 Sometimes He disciplines His own people.

Hebrews 12:5-7

⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son." ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

Hebrews 12:11

¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

#3 He is being patient with people who don't know Him yet.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.